

HAPPY
new year

Pause & Renew
Your Perspective...

The Sunland Beacon 

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New Year's resolutions...a resolve to continue good practices, change an undesired trait or behavior, accomplish a personal goal or otherwise improve your life. Ahh, New Year's resolutions. Yes, we make them, and unfortunately, we often break them. Having the best of intentions we look at the year ahead with ambitious thoughts and plans. We vow to do better...and for a while we do. But given time, we can easily forget about them and cycle back to our old habits. And so life continues as is, status quo. We wonder if we can really achieve our aspirations and dreams.

In this edition of the Beacon, Superintendent Marguerite Morgan offers some humorous and interesting thoughts about perspective through the eyes of a snowman. Hmm...maybe we could use a new perspective to help meet our personal and professional goals? Who knows, maybe we'll even find a new determination to help us keep those New Year's resolutions!

Several Sunland staff recently shared their personal goals and resolutions for 2020. Three are listed below. Their viewpoints are quite thought provoking. Perhaps we should pause to consider the perspectives of others (yes, even *the snowman*) and find ways to incorporate similar positive goals into our own lives. With a little encouragement and renewed inspiration we can all enjoy a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

AnneMarie Shelton, Jerry Mixon and Syntha Alvarez, Behavior Services ~ Not so much a resolution, but several of us in the Behavior Services department have committed to "Whole 30" by eating more whole foods vs. processed foods!

Robyn Brewer Eiler, Senior Licensed Practical Nurse, Unit 2, 2nd Shift ~ Getting warmed up for my "create your own happiness workout." People make resolutions every year about losing weight, saving money, or whatever. My resolution is I will smile every day and find happiness within myself. So starting tomorrow, I will be posting 365 smiles (Facebook) in the year 2020. Nothing changes until YOU change!

Latasha Bellamy, HSSS, East Truman, 2nd Shift ~ In 2020, my goal is to build a stronger relationship with God. Everything else will fall into place.

From the Superintendent...

The word perspective is defined as "a particular attitude toward or way of regarding something; a point of view." Below are winter time thoughts from a Snowman I came across on the website craftyoursself.com. As we enter the cold winter season, maybe we should consider how a snowman sees it:

All I Need to Know About Life I Learned From a Snowman...

- It's okay if you're a little bottom heavy.
- Hold your ground, even when the heat is on.
- Wearing white is always appropriate.
- Winter is the best of the four seasons.
- It takes a few extra rolls to make a good midsection.
- There's nothing better than a foul weather friend.
- We're all made up of mostly water.
- You know you've made it when they write a song about you.
- Accessorize! Accessorize! Accessorize!
- Avoid yellow snow.
- Don't get too much sun.
- It's embarrassing when you can't look down and see your feet.
- It's fun to hang out in your front yard.
- Always put your best foot forward.
- There's no stopping you once you're on a roll.

Winter time is here and while it is often accompanied by a few cold and dreary days, I am thankful to live in a place without blizzards and heavy snow storms! While I do sometimes enjoy traveling to cold weather destinations, I am always glad to return to the warmer climate. I guess it's all about perspective and preference. As you can see, the Snowman and I look at things a bit differently...

See you around campus!

Marguerite

Marguerite Morgan
Superintendent



Residents Honored During Winter Graduation Ceremony

A Resident Education Winter Graduation ceremony was held on January 8 for Unit 2 residents who successfully completed classes in Thinking for a Change, Budgeting, and Footprints.

Congratulations to the following graduates: R. D., Thinking for a Change; S. K., Thinking for a Change and Budgeting; Mary F., Thinking for a Change; Samantha W., Thinking for a Change and Budgeting; Lonnie F., Thinking for a Change; Herman J., Thinking for a Change; Cheryl D., Budgeting; Eugene L., Budgeting; John B., Footprints and Michael B., Footprints. Several graduates were happy to show off their certificates at the conclusion of the program, as seen below.



Emerald Coast Music Alliance Concert

Nothing stirs the soul quite like music. Sunland residents and staff were treated to a beautiful classical concert performance by Emerald Coast Music Alliance's Brass Quintet on Monday, January 13. The Emerald Coast Music Alliance is the brainchild of Alon Goldstein, an Israeli-born pianist who has played all over the world. Goldstein formed the group in the hopes of keeping the magic of art, specifically the art of classical music, alive. The group works in partnership with the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra and relies on donations to fund its efforts, which consist of taking world-class musicians directly to populations who would have little or no opportunity for such an experience. This is done free of charge. Venues have included school classrooms, autism centers, after-school programs, facilities for those with special needs and assisted living facilities. This was the third year the group has visited Sunland. They did an excellent job of educating the audience on the various aspects of classical music as well as delighting the crowd with a variety of musical genres. Sunland greatly appreciates the dedication of the Emerald Coast Music Alliance and the gift of music they share with us each year!



Glory Shine Farm Educational Encounter

January 27, 2020, was a beautiful day! Blue skies, warm sunshine and temperatures in the mid-60's created a perfect opportunity for the Jackson County School Program at Sunland to celebrate their "100th Day of School" outdoors. Students enrolled in the JCS Program, along with many other Sunland residents, were treated to a unique farm animal educational encounter presented by Glory Shine Farm. They enjoyed petting and feeding goats, sheep, a baby pot bellied pig, a 15 year old tortoise, and a Scottish Highlands cow. The farm, owned and operated by Dennis and Kelly Keefe and their five children, is located in Fountain, Florida. The family provides these encounters free of charge with the purpose of teaching, showing and telling about animals and farm life. Special thanks to Glory Shine Farm and the Jackson County School Program for making this a wonderful inclusion opportunity for all Sunland residents!



Staff Honored at Service Awards Ceremony

Sunland's semi annual Service Awards ceremony was held on January 30 at the Mixer. Staff who attained 5 - 35 years of service with the State of Florida during the period of June 2019 - December 2019 were honored during this event. Superintendent Marguerite Morgan presented each honoree with an engraved award, certificate of service and service pin. Following the presentation of awards, honorees and guests were treated to a delicious assortment of refreshments. Congratulations to the following employees on their career milestones:



5 Years of Service

Nicole Ellis, Caleb Sherman, James Sorey, Linda Edwards, Nicole Hendrix, Melissa Harrell
 Not Pictured: Londyn Johnson, Paula Coleman, Gene Garrett, Jonathan Gilley, Amy Mincy, Vera Scott, Jessica Sorey, Brenda Spencer



10 Years of Service

Clevelando Wedderburn, Henry Sherrod, Lisa Sexton, Jake Sexton, Matt Dryden
 Not Pictured: Kentral Baker, Christopher Dawson, Roger Hatcher, Marian Herring, Jason Huckaby, Faye Johnson, Kevin Jones,



15 Years of Service

Steven King, Jenkins Early, Racquel Dunston, Rose Crews, Franklin Williams, Shelina Bryant, Suzanne Laramore, Dollette Everett
 Not Pictured: Teresa Burden, Addie White



20 Years of Service

Robert Lamar, Fredrick Travis, Robin Snellgrove, Tambra Cabrera



25 Years of Service

Kevin Nesmith, Jennifer Long



30 Years of Service

Teresa Landau, Bart Harrell, Alice Jennings, Barry Vickson

35 Years of Service - Clint Cox (Not Pictured)

Congratulations January Star Award Recipients!

The Employee Recognition Program sends a huge shout out to the employees pictured below who were recognized with a Star Award during the month of January 2020! Not pictured were: Dominique Catrett, Unit 1; Clint Cox, CSS/Recreation; Tonya Kelly, CSS/Mall.

AWARD	EMPLOYEE NAME/TEAM NAMES	CHARACTER QUALITIES
GOLD STAR	DOMINIQUE CATRETT, UNIT 1 GRANT	ATTENTIVENESS, DEPENDABILITY, ENTHUSIASM
GOLD STAR	SHIKIYAH HENDERSON, UNIT 2 THIEL CENTER	ATTENTIVENESS, DEPENDABILITY, ENTHUSIASM
GOLD STAR TEAM	UNIT 3 EAST WASHINGTON, AVA NEEL & ANGELA BROWN	ALERTNESS, ATTENTIVENESS, DECISIVENESS
GOLD STAR	CLINT COX, CSS/RECREATION	ATTENTIVENESS, AVAILABILITY, ENTHUSIASM
GOLD STAR	TONYA KELLY, CSS/MALL	ALERTNESS, BOLDNESS, DETERMINATION
GOLD STAR TEAM	VINCENT NIEVES-PAUGH, FOOD SERVICE	AVAILABILITY, DEPENDABILITY, DETERMINATION
GOLD STAR TEAM	WAREHOUSE/PROPERTY, WADE KING, CHRISTIAN WILLIAMS, STEPHEN SMITH, WENDY JORDAN, STEVEN KING	AVAILABILITY, FLEXIBILITY, ORDERLINESS
GOLD STAR TEAM	OT/PT & SPEECH, STARLA CHANCE, LARRY SMITH, ALDINA JACKSON	AVAILABILITY, ATTENTIVENESS, ENTHUSIASM

GOLD STAR AWARD
Shikiyah Henderson
 Pictured with: Marguerite Morgan & Phil Anderson



GOLD STAR TEAM AWARD
East Washington
Ava Neel & Angela Brown
 Pictured with:
 Marguerite Morgan & Franklin Williams



GOLD STAR TEAM AWARD
Special Communications - OT/PT & Speech
Aldina Jackson & Larry Smith
 Pictured with: Marguerite Morgan & Franklin Williams
 Not Pictured: Starla Chance



GOLD STAR AWARD
Food Service - Vincent Nieves-Paugh
 Pictured with: Marguerite Morgan & DeRon Johnson



GOLD STAR TEAM AWARD
Warehouse & Property
Stephen Smith, Wade King, Christian Williams, Wendy Jordan, Steven King
 Pictured with: Marguerite Morgan

Sometimes all we need is just a new

P E R S P E C T I V E



HUMAN RESOURCES

Sunland's Human Resource Team is always happy to serve you! For any personnel needs, please contact Veronica Mullinax, Katey Hobbs, Lizzie Holland, Nicole Sims, Robin Morris or Lisa Rabon. The HR department can be reached at 482-9230. Information regarding vacancies can be obtained at the People First website at: <https://peoplefirst.myflorida.com>



**WE ARE
HERE
TO HELP**

NEW EMPLOYEES

Kathryn Toldeo
Deborah Lauer
Am'Brosia Bell
Clarence Sawyer
Briana Knight
Destiny Jones
Rodijah Parks
Deja Lesure
Antavioius Donaldson
Barbara Letourneaut
Katherine Williams
Jakevia Reed

Destini Kimble
Cynthia Cloud
Marlaina Miller
Lisa Cason
Tazion Hines
Cassandra Gillette
Sandrea Speights
Kaitlyn Adams
Ja'Keena Borders
Derick Garrett
Shamari Garrett

Welcome Aboard!